

Message Text

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ACTION INT-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 /076 W
----- 045072

R 170920Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6081
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC
CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI
COMTWELVE SFRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 2758

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, TQ, IR

SUBJ: PALAU SUPERPORT

REFS: (A) TEHRAN 2669, (B) STATE 56378

1. A CAPTAIN BRANDERBERG, USN RET., ASSOCIATE OF ROBERT PANERO, TELEPHONED EMBOFF MARCH 15 TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENT FOR HIMSELF, PANERO AND PALAUAN SENATORS SALII AND TMETUCHL. GROUP, HOWEVER, WAS TIED UP ALL DAY, WITH DEPARTURE SET FOR EVENING OF MARCH 15, AND WAS UNABLE TO VISIT EMBASSY.

2. BRANDENBERG, IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION, SAID THAT MEETING WITH NIOC HAD GONE VERY SMOOTHLY AND THAT GROUP EXPECTS FEASIBILITY STUDY WILL BEGIN "IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS." NO COMPANY HAS YET BEEN SELECTED TO CARRY OUR STUDY. EMBOFF MENTIONED NIOC OFFICIAL'S COMMENT (REF A) THAT HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY SENATORS WERE COMING TO MERE TECHNICAL MEETING. BRENDENBERG REPLIED THAT SENATORS "WANTED TO MAKE THEIR (I.E., ISLANDERS') PRESENCE KNOWN AND TO EXPLAIN SECURITY ASPECTS OF PROJECT TO NIOC; IN PARTICULAR TO EXPLAIN THAT PALAU INTENDS TO SEEK FREE ASSOCIATE OF COMMON-WEALTH TYPE PARTNERSHIP WITH U.S."

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3. EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER THERE IS STRONG CONSENSUS ON THIS MATTER IN PALAU AND COMMENTED THAT HE HAD SEEN "SOME CLIPPINGS" SUGGESTING POLITICAL CONTENTION IN RELATION TO SUPERPORT PROJECT. BRANDENBERG SAID PERHAPS CLIPPING CONCERNED INDEPENDENCE, AND ASSESSED THAT INDEPENDENCE IN PALAUAN VOCOBULARY MEANS INDEPENDENCE FROM REST OF MICRONESIA AND FROM INDONESIA, AND PERMANENT VERY CLOSE TIES WITH U.S. HE CLAIMED THAT PALAUAN DESIRE FOR INDEPENDENCE IN THIS SENSE IS STRONG AND VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS, AND SAID PALAUAN SENATORS MADE CLEAR TO NIOC THAT PALAU IS SEEKING A CLOSE AND PERMANENT RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S.

4. OBVIOUSLY EMBASSY HAS NO BASIS FOR JUDGING BRANDENBERG'S REMARKS. IF THE ISSUES IS AS HE DESCRIBED IT, HOWEVER, WE CAN HARDLY EXPECT GOI TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN ANY WAY. IF DEPT SENDS ANY FUTURE INSTRUCTIONS ON LINES REF B, PLEASE PROVIDE SUFFICIENT BACKGROUND TO GIVE US SOME GRASP OF WHAT PRECISELY WE ARE TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT.
HELMS

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NNN

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